

Remarks

Examiner Marissa Furgeson and Supervisor Andrew Hirsheld are thanked for the helpful personal interview of June 15, 2004.

As was discussed in the interview, it was agreed that claim 1 does appear to define over the prior references of record. The interview discussion centered around 3 key points, the definition of "throw-on distance" and how a throw-on distance is produced, the prior art methods of providing a throw-on distance (that is always constant), and the present inventions' control device that allows for a variable throw-on distance as claimed. Each of these 3 points is detailed below.

The invention relates to the adjustment of a cylinder within an offset printing press during the starting and stopping of printing operations. These starting and stopping operations usually involve a feeding or ejecting paper in what are referred to as "throw-on" and "throw-off" operations. Line 1 of page 4 of the instant application defines a throw-on distance as "the *change* amount of the clearance between the blanket cylinder and the impression cylinder". This incremental change of distance is provided by the rotation of a second eccentric bearing (in both the instant invention and the prior art). The rotation of a first eccentric bearing is used to adjust the cylinder to cylinder distance for another reason such as paper thickness. As only the rotation of the second bearing produces the throw-on distance, this incremental change of clearance (throw-on distance) is independent of a paper thickness clearance distance that is made by the rotation of the first bearing.

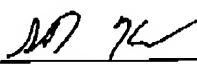
The prior art references (Applicant Admitted Prior Art AAPA) always rotate the second bearing the same amount for the throw-on operation. This results in producing a throw-on distance that remains constant. Regardless of whatever paper thickness setting has been made (by rotation of the first bearing) the second bearing is always rotated the same amount. The figures of these prior art references do not show any type of controlling means that would allow for the second bearing to be adjusted in a variable manner as to allow for a variable throw-on distance.

The present invention contains a control device (73 as shown in Figure 13) that specifically allows the rotation of the second bearing to be variable. This results in providing a "variable throw-on distance" as specifically recited in claim 1. See for example pages 14-21 of the instant specification that describe variable rotations of the second bearing based on the rotations of the first bearing. These different angular rotations (as controlled and determined by the controller 73) provide the variable throw-on distance as recited in claim 1.

Therefore none of the prior art references singly or in combination, teach nor suggest the invention as claimed. Applicant's believe that all the pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would further expedite the prosecution of this application, she is urged to contact the undersigned Agent at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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